

New combination in *Viola* (Violaceae)

T.A. James

Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney, 2000, New South Wales, Australia.

ABSTRACT

Viola hederacea subsp. *fuscoviolacea* is recognised as a distinct species; an illustration and a new combination are provided.

Introduction

Adams (1982) recognised eight subspecies within the *Viola hederacea* complex in Australia, including *V. hederacea* subsp. *sieberiana*, a taxon previously recognised as a distinct species (Sprengel 1827). Both earlier and subsequent treatments (Willis 1973; Curtis 1975; Seppelt 1986; James 1990) have retained *V. sieberiana* at specific rank, despite a varietal combination available under *V. hederacea* (Domin 1928), and in keeping with cytological, morphological and biochemical evidence (Seppelt 1986). Morphologically at least, three of the other subspecies recognised by Adams, show closer affinities to *V. sieberiana* than to *V. hederacea*. The leaves are consistently ovate to rhombic in shape, as wide as long or longer and the base cuneate and tapering into the petiole. The flowers are concolorous and the petals <7 mm long. In comparison the leaves of *V. hederacea* are reniform to almost circular, often broader than long and mostly truncate or cordate at the base; the flowers are mostly discolorous with petals 7-10 mm long. Despite the uniformity of characters within the *V. sieberiana* alliance, taxa can be readily distinguished on the basis of flower colour and size and the length of the flower scape. *Viola hederacea* subsp. *cleistogamoides* (Adams 1982) has been formally raised to specific rank (Seppelt 1986). *Viola hederacea* subsp. *fuscoviolacea* is recognised as a distinct species (*V. sp. A*) in the *Flora of New South Wales* (James 1990) but requires a new combination.

Taxonomy

Viola fuscoviolacea (L.G.Adams) T.A.James, *comb. & stat. nov.*

Viola sp. A sensu T.A.James, *Fl. New South Wales* 1: 438 (1990).

Viola hederacea subsp. *fuscoviolacea* L.G.Adams, *Fl. Australia* 8:386 (1982) basionym.
TYPE: Victoria: Buckety Plain, Bogong High Plains, 36°56'S, 147°21'E, 6 Jan. 1972, L.G. Adams 2641 (HOLOTYPE: CANB; ISOTYPES: K, MEL)

Perennial herb, usually glabrous; stems short; stolons well-developed. *Leaves* tufted; lamina broad-ovate to ovate-rhombic, 5-15 mm long, 4-10 mm wide, base cuneate (or rarely almost truncate), tapering to petiole, margins scalloped to coarsely toothed, apex obtuse; petioles narrowly winged, 1-3 cm long; stipules free, linear-lanceolate, 1-5 mm long, glandular-denticulate. *Flower-scapes* 2-25 mm long, shorter than or just exceeding leaves; bracteoles mostly below middle. *Sepals* lanceolate, 1.5-3 mm long, acute, basal appendages small. *Petals* 2-3 mm long, blackish-violet (rarely paler); lower petal obovate-elliptic, c. 2 mm wide, without spur; lateral petals entire, bearded. *Capsule* ovoid, 4-7 mm long. (Fig. 1)

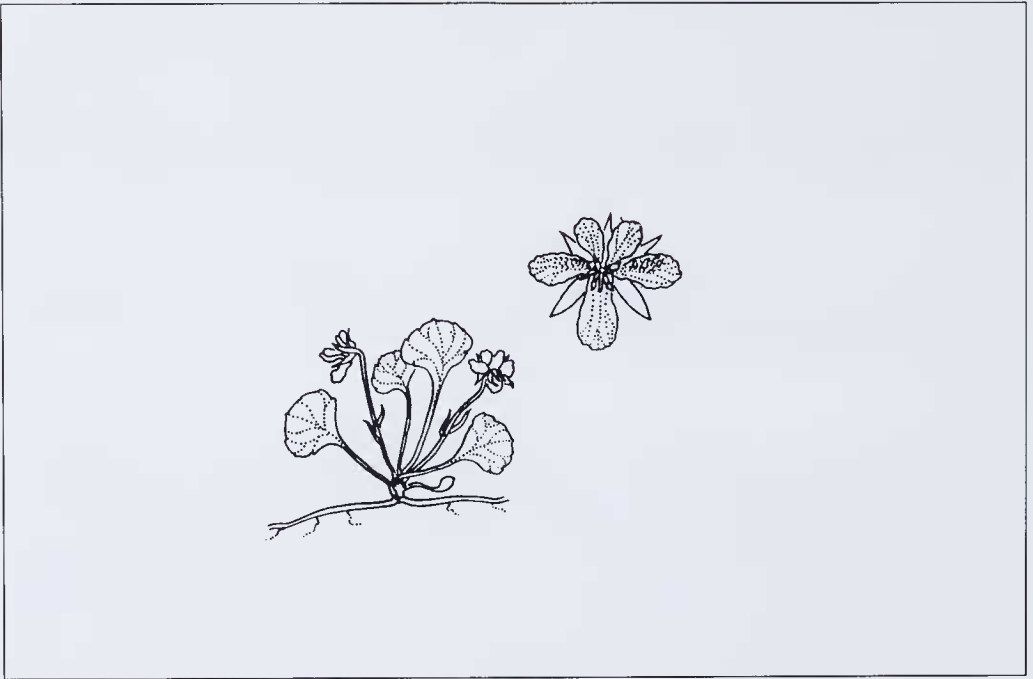


Fig. 1. Habit study of *Viola fuscoviolacea*. Reproduced from G.J. Harden (ed) (1990).

FLOWERING PERIOD

Mostly November to January.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Occurs in damp sites at edge of montane peatland or in alpine herbfields, often along creeks. Tablelands of New South Wales; Victoria and Tasmania.

ETYMOLOGY

The name is derived from Latin *fuscus* = dark, *violaceus* = violet, referring to the colour of the corolla (Adams 1982).

Acknowledgements

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